



Department Updates

January 2021

Health & Human Services

Stacey Frolik Director

Happy New Year! Many of us are ready to put 2020 behind us and move forward into 2021. 90% of DHHS staff continue to work remotely. Our office is open for scheduled appointments but many day to day operations remain through a virtual format. We continue to prioritize the health and safety of the communities we serve.

In August of 2020 we kicked off Family Drug Treatment Court. We currently are serving 9 families in the program with the capacity of 12 families. This is a treatment court designed specifically for families within the child welfare system who have been identified as having issues of addiction.

The number of individuals and families served by our

Comprehensive Community Services (CCS) program grew over 2020 and we have 9 children receiving CCS only services and 38 children who are dually enrolled in CCS and Children's Long Term Support Services. We have 36 adults enrolled in CCS.

The Children's Long Term Support team has been working with the State to eliminate the waitlist for services. We currently have about 20 children on the services waitlist and it is our intention to have all of those children enrolled in services by the end of March 2021.

The State has waived all renewal requirements for Economic Support Services/Income Maintenance programs with the exception of Child Care Assistance. The Energy Assistance program which typically ends in May of each year did not close in 2020.

At this point we have not been informed if the season will close this year either or if it will roll right into the 2021-2022 season.

The Public Health focus for most of 2020 was not surprisingly, Covid. Many hours went into planning and coordinating with many local partners from school districts, to healthcare systems to industry within the county. Covid case investigation and contact tracing along with testing were major priorities to help slow the spread of the virus. In 2020 we saw our infectious rate peak in mid-late November both in terms of cases and hospitalizations. 2021 will bring into focus the distribution of the Covid Vaccine. Again, this is a team effort across the county to get as many people vaccinated who want to be vaccinated in an efficient manner.

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2021 County Board Meeting Dates

January 11	9:00 a.m.	July 19	7:00 p.m.
February 15	9:00 a.m.	August 16	7:00 p.m.
March 15	9:00 a.m.	September 20	7:00 p.m.
April 20	9:00 a.m.	October 18	7:00 p.m.
May 17	7:00 p.m.	November 1	6:00 p.m.
June 21	7:00 p.m.	November 6	9:00 a.m.

Corporation Counsel

John Muench, Corporation Counsel

Availability. While we are rotating staff who are physically in the office and working remotely, we typically have at least one person on site; however, given the need to attend meetings or court, availability may be limited at times. Despite this, those working remotely are also available either by phone, email or by ZOOM or Google Meets which does allow some flexibility. Normally, Muench is in the office most days and staff in one to two days per week as circumstances require. If you don't reach someone or get a quick response then try again in a few minutes. Someone is normally always available.

Court Attendance. Courts are running full schedules for all types of hearings. We are attending all court hearings by ZOOM. The Court is actually open and individuals can appear in person, and do need to appear in person for certain types of cases; however, the Court is encouraging attendance virtually. Virtual appearances require some logistical planning, especially if working remotely; however, the process is working very well.

Contract Approval Process. After working together with the Technology Department, Administration and the Finance Department we were able to develop a very effective Contract Approval Process using Laserfiche. Just a reminder to departments to use the Laserfiche process when seeking approval of contracts or memorandums of understanding.

Maintenance / Parks & Recreation

Steve Olson

Maintenance

We have a few projects going this winter. The first is installing a hallway counter and work station in the office of Aging. This counter will allow clients to stay in the hallway and not enter the Aging staff areas. Also will give the receptionist more work area.

The second project is to upgrade the G.C auditorium. As this report is being written, the final measurements and material lists are being completed.

The third project is the upgrade to the fire alarm system at the J.C. The project was budgeted for 2020 but I couldn't meet that dead line. So a carryover into 2021 was needed. The plans are at the State for approval. We will begin as soon as that process is completed.

The daily operations are going smoothly. There aren't any major complications anywhere.

Parks & Recreation

The parks were very busy this summer. After a slow start the season did pretty well.

There were a lot of dirt and gravel jobs this year. Whether at landing, in the parks or on the forest roads there were a lot of loads spread out. All boat landings were busy all summer. We had more dock repair than usual. We are losing some trees at the parks also. Mostly age, but disease also. We replant where needed.

Property lines on pieces of county property were installed or repainted this fall. We try to do a few miles every spring and fall. Best when there are no leaves.